



# OUR CHURCH LIFE



CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL 2014

**April 4 Friday 11:30am** Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Annex

**April 4-6 Friday 5:00pm through Sunday 9:00am** *Heart of Texas UU Men's Retreat* at UBarU. See ubaru.org to register or talk with Mark.

**April 6 Sunday 10:00am Service** *Reflections on Racial Equity* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz. Having recently participated in a weekend conference presented by the Allies for Racial Equity, in today's service I will address the development and support of anti-racist politic, leadership, and organization in primarily white communities with a goal to build dynamic multiracial alliances locally and nationally.

**April 9 Wednesday 6:30pm: Board Meeting** in Annex

**April 11 2pm: Needles** a crafting group open to all, meets in Annex

**April 13 Sunday Service 10am** *The Building Your Own Theology* class will share the insights they have gained during the last ten weeks they have been meeting together.

**April 14** Starting April 14th and for six successive Monday nights in the Annex at 7.00pm The PBS video *The African Americans*, written, narrated and produced by Henry Louis-Gates will be shown and we will have a discussion about the segment afterwards

**April 18 Friday 11:30am** Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Annex

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**April 20 Sunday 10:00am Service** *EASTER SUNDAY Giving That Feels Good* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz. It's time for our annual Pledge Drive. How does our Church face financial challenges? What motivates us to support our Hill Country Church? Let's explore these questions together. **POTLUCK SUNDAY**

**April 25 2pm: Needles** a crafting group open to all, meets in Annex

**April 25-27 Friday 5:00pm through Sunday 2:00pm** Spring Conference— UU First Unitarian Church of Dallas will be the host on April 25-27 for many UU's from around the area and beyond. Experience the joy of meeting those who belong to our wider community. Listen to singer Holly Near, attend some good workshops and worship services. Go online to [ntuuc.org/swuuc2014](http://ntuuc.org/swuuc2014) for more details and to register. It is only \$75 if you register by April 14th.

**April 27 Sunday 9am-9:45am Discussion in the annex UU Magazine;** Our UUA President, Peter Morales, in his article on p5 of the Spring Edition of the Magazine titled *Our house, unequally divided*, asks us to consider a new series of inequalities  
**Service 10am** To Be Announced: Information not available at time of publication. Contact June Hartley, Service Chair 896-5131 for details.

**May 2 Friday 11:30am** Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Anne

**May 3 Saturday 7:00pm** *PFLAG 5th Anniversary Celebration* (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) at The Gathering next door to Grape Juice. Come support this non-profit social action organization that our Church has helped sustain into its 5th year.

**May 4 Sunday 10:00am Service** *What is Ubuntu and How Can We Learn from It?* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz. This sermon is an opportunity for multicultural education as we examine this African humanist religion. Thanks to John Schlosser for naming the minister's sermon topic.

# April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 JCHC Men's Fellowship 11:30am	5
6 Service 10am  Rev. Mark Skrabacz	7	8	9 6:30pm BOARD MEETING - ANNEX	10	11 JCHC  Needles 2p	12
13 9am Discus- sion in Annex  Service 10am	14 Film Series 7p Annex	15	16	17	18 JCHC  Men's Fellowship 11:30am	19
20 Service 10am EASTER SUNDAY & POTLUCK SUNDAY	21 Film Series 7p Annex	22	23	24	25 JCHC  Needles 2p	26
27 9am Discus- sion in Annex  Service 10am	28 Film Series 7p Annex	29	30	<u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE APRIL 18</u>		

## From Our Minister's Desk

By Rev. Mark Skrabacz

I thought I would share some reflections about experiences we have shared at our Hill Country Church.

We are a community of active and interested persons who choose to assemble under the principles of our liberal faith. As some have noted, we are diverse enough that it is challenging to come together in focus and unanimity. Yet it has been experienced in congregational meetings that votes have shown very strong, almost unanimous, decisions from time to time. These occasions for coming together need to be remembered when the going gets rocky. Success breeds success, and our Church's experiences of effective communication, discussion and agreement have more often than not resulted in successful decisions and actions. Let these times be remembered.

Challenges are everyday occurrences in any congregation, in part because people bring higher expectations and have more freedom here than they have in many other parts of their lives. It's important to remember that the flow of minor challenges, conflicts, complaints and criticisms is part of the normal "noise level" of a community's life. The most helpful leadership response is less intense than the event that triggered it. By under-reacting, leaders serve as step-down transformers who dampen, rather than amplify, the noise. It's important to remember that the background noise is a price we pay for the creative and life-building possibilities offered by a healthy Church.

Change is happening all around us. Yet bringing healthy transformation into our Church can meet with resistance. Everyone has an opinion and in our democratic system, we give respectful opportunity for these to be shared. How our Church will navigate change will require broad participation and ownership of the

results. Our leadership is comprised of those who have been elected by the Congregation and appointed to leadership of committees and programs. As you consider the addition of a new minister into the mix, may that process involve the shining of light on the culture of our congregation and the needs and goals that can be supported by a unified team of leaders. Focusing on our opportunities will take us a lot farther than focusing on the problems.

Speaking of opportunities, among us are several who are calling for a more missional vision for our congregation. They wish for the Church to reach out into the community and make a difference. It's true that many, if not all individuals, in our congregation are actively involved in service to the greater community. Yet how do we show up together? What impact do we wish to make as a Church? To these questions may I remind us that individually we show up as social action workers, together we are members of a spiritual community. What difference can this distinction make to how and where we apply ourselves as agents of transformation in our society?

There is something magical about any intense, tightly knit group of people working and exploring together, playing and praying together. Something in us senses that a community like ours can be the indispensable launching pad for transformation. It can create the context and the confidence for a transforming journey, individually and collectively. Recalling the words of anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does."

### **Spring keeps her promises, — why don't you?**

*Frances Sargent Osgood (Unitarian, poet, author) "To A Dear Little Truant" Poems (1846) p.41*

### **Because of those who came before, we are; in spite of their failings, we believe; Because of, and in spite of the horizons of their vision, we, too, dream**

*Barbara Pescan (Unitarian Universalist, poet, clergy) quoted by Kathleen Rolenz, Sources of Our Faithful Truant" Poems (1846) p.41*

## THE WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON

by Laurie Pesez

Though we generally think of Kerrville and Kerr County as a wealthy area, the fact is that we are also home to many people who are just getting by and who rely on some kind of assistance even to put food on the table. Young mothers abandoned by the father of their children; people trying to recover from drug or alcohol addiction; people who cannot work because of a physical or mental disability; elderly people trying to manage on small Social Security checks. All of these people are included in the first principle that we affirm as a UU congregation: “the inherent worth and dignity of every person.”

I volunteered as an interviewer at Christian Assistance Ministry for about twelve years, off and on, and I saw homeless people who had walked or hitchhiked to CAM, people sleeping in their cars, people who had lost their homes and all their belongings in a fire, people injured on the job and temporarily unable to work. Sometimes a client would come to CAM immediately after being released from the hospital, with a fistful of prescriptions they needed to fill – and no money. Since the amount we could spend was limited, the trick was to figure out which medicines were the most essential; often we would try to refer the client to St. Vincent de Paul or Salvation Army to supplement the amount we could provide.

Though we were not always able to pay the water bill or get the electricity turned back on, one thing we could always provide was food. Because of the generosity of area churches, including ours, CAM has a large, modern, well-stocked pantry to provide food for every client. Trained volunteers fill bags with nutritious items according to the number of people in the family. Even dog food and cat food are often available because we know that, if necessary, people will feed their pets and go hungry themselves.

Your donations to our food baskets are welcome at any time, of course, but we are starting to recognize the second Sunday of the month as CAM Sunday. On that day please bring an item you can spare (can, jar, package) and place it under the refreshment table. When I take our donations to CAM, I always mention the name of our church; in that way people belonging to other churches will notice that our congregation is one that cares about community involvement and believes in the worth and dignity of every person.



## EASTER 1999 AT OUR OWN UUCHC

**YRUU CONTEST** —The YRUU will host a **NOGGIN COVERING** contest on Easter Sunday, April 4 for all congregants. So get your tiara, fedora, porkpie, pith helmet, fez, beanie, or sombreros decorated for the Easter Parade after service on the 4th of April. Prizes will be given for , biggest, most shabby, most imaginative, and gaudiest. After the contest we'll have a potluck at the church...For more info contact a YRUU.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

### Profiles of Our Church Family

#### KAY WHITE

From an Interview with Meredith Hensley

Native to the Texas Panhandle, Kay grew up in Sudan, a small town of 1,000, near Lubbock. She describes her father as an entrepreneur who turned the ownership of one truck into two farms and a ranch. Her mother was a housewife and Kay was an only child. Throughout high school Kay took part in a number of different activities including playing clarinet in the band. She was the Salutatorian of her graduating class of 18. After high school, Kay attended Baylor University where she graduated with a BS in Psychology and a minor in Biology. While in college Kay married her late husband, whom she had been dating since she was a junior in high school.

Upon graduating, Kay became a caseworker for Methodist Children's Home, specializing in foster and group care. And after moving to Amarillo because of her husband's job, she continued with Methodist Home as an Outpost worker, specializing in adoption and foster care. After eight years as a social worker, Kay relates that she felt 'burned out' and went back to school where she obtained an Associate Degree in Architectural drafting.

Kay then spent five years in her new field working with architects, civil engineers and the Department of Highways. In 1978 the family moved to Corpus Christi where her husband had accepted a job as the head of a hospital lab. Kay relates that she became a 'community activist,' volunteering her time and talents for a number of organizations. Later she returned to full-time work as a caseworker for JPTA, now known as Workforce Solutions, where she counseled teens in obtaining summertime jobs.

In 1987, after eight years in Corpus Christi, Kay's husband died suddenly of a heart attack. At that time one son was in high school, one in middle school, and one in elementary.

Kay became Program Coordinator for the Literacy Council, and then spent several years at Del Mar College as a GED instructor for both foreign students and dropouts. Later she worked several years at Texas A&M – Corpus Christi, advising freshmen and transfer students. She describes this position as 'more than full-time,' and, in 2001, decided to move to the Hill Country. However, before she returned to work, her mother was diagnosed with cancer, and until she passed away, Kay concentrated on her mother's care.

In 2003 Kay was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and in 2004 began a seven-month series of treatments at the Tulsa branch of Cancer Treatment Centers of America. Five years later she was flown to Philadelphia for a five-year survival celebration.

Kay has been active in community organizations such as the Native Plant Society, the Riverside Nature Center, and a local square dancing group. It was while square dancing 11 years ago that she met her significant other, Phil Byers. With his avid interest in the Old West and the American Cowboy, she often travels with him to cowboy gatherings. They also share an active interest in music and plays, often attending Texas music concerts. At the present time Kay is a leader of a Ukulele jam group with memfrom Kerrville and Fredericksburg and which includes several members of our congregation. She also enjoys traveling; she and Phil have taken a number of trips with *Road Scholar* to the Western States. And she just completed a Caribbean cruise in March.

At the present time Kay's three sons live in various areas. Her first son, Jason, whom she says was only eight years old when he knew he wanted to be a pilot, was Valedictorian of his high school class, and attended the Air Force Academy where he graduated 75<sup>th</sup> out of 1,000. He presently lives in Colorado Springs with wife Vikki and son David, 13. He is a Lt. Colonel in the Reserves and flies for Fed Ex. Kay's second son Matt lives in San Antonio with his wife Sarah and son Trevor, 11. Matt graduated from UTSA and is a computer tech at Randolph AFB. He recently suffered several heart attacks but is presently doing well. Gabriel, Kay's third son, was graduated with a BS in Clinical Lab Science this last fall. He and his significant other Leigh Anne moved to Denver in March.

Kay's interest in Unitarian Universalism began when she was living in Amarillo. Raised in the Church of Christ, she later attended the Baptist church with her husband but became aware she was not comfortable there. When he lost interest in attending, Kay began to look for somewhere more in line with her personal beliefs. After trying several Protestant churches, someone told her about the UU church. She relates that the church rule was you must attend three times before you could become a member, and she became a member after her third time.

When Kay moved to Corpus Christi, the UU church there met in an old Assembly of God church where they sometimes had as few as eight people attending. Through the years, she was an active member, serving in positions such as Board President, Vice-President and in other offices, as well as member of a number of committees including a ministerial search committee.

She is also active in our church, having served on committees such as Long Range Planning, Election and Audit as well as presently serving on the Ministerial Relations Committee.

We are proud that Kay is a member of our beloved community. In addition to her friendliness and beautiful smile, she continues to contribute to our church with her wisdom and long experience in her life's work of helping people as well as in her work within the UU churches of which she has been a part. We appreciate you, Kay, and are grateful for your well-being and your friendship.

## CHURCH CONTACTS

### Board of Directors 2013-2014

**Pres.** Diane McMahon 896-3195 [dianelm@windstream.net](mailto:dianelm@windstream.net)

**VP** June Hartley 896-5191 [juneh@ktc.com](mailto:juneh@ktc.com)

**Sec.** Jan Lentner 719-371-6825 [macawma2001@yahoo.com](mailto:macawma2001@yahoo.com)

**Treas.** Judy Ashcraft 896-8319, [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com)

**Past Pres.** Steve Galland 634-7668 [sgalland@afgimail.com](mailto:sgalland@afgimail.com)

### Minister

The Rev. Mark Skrabacz

890-5784, [markskrabacz@hotmail.com](mailto:markskrabacz@hotmail.com)

### Other Key Contacts

**Service Committee—June Hartley (see above)**

**Newsletter—** Joyce Randle-257-2346, [rjpa47@stx.rr.com](mailto:rjpa47@stx.rr.com)

**Book Club -** Kevin Hartley [kevinh@ktc.com](mailto:kevinh@ktc.com) 896-5191

**Music Director –** Meredith Hensley 830-522-0802

**Director of Children's Religious Education-**Joyce Randle (above)

**Lifespan Faith Development** Marie Brown 895-5138

**Care-**Shari Gore 367-3142, Marie Brown 895-5138,

**Chalice Table-**Shari Gore 367-3142

**Chalice Lighter-**Judy Ashcraft (above)

**Chalice Table Coordinator–** Shari Gore (above)

**Librarian–** Shari Gore (above)

**Maintenance–** Jerry Best 210-633-7553 [bestjerry@hotmail.com](mailto:bestjerry@hotmail.com)

**Publicity-**Judy Ashcraft (above)

**Chat & Chew-**Joyce Randle (above)

**Community Outreach -** Laurie Pesez

**Membership -** Joyce Randle (above)

**Men's Fellowship Lunch -** Steve Galland 634-7668

**Ministerial Relations Committee -** Donna Schloss 830-792-6189  
[dschloss@ktc.com](mailto:dschloss@ktc.com)

Address: 960 Barnett St,  
Kerrville TX 78028

Church phone: 830-792-3626

Webpage [uuchc.org](http://uuchc.org)

## Chalice Table/Greeter

Following is the roster for decorating the chalice table and greeting members and guests. If you cannot participate on the Sunday listed, please contact Shari Gore, 367-3142

April 6	Gore Family	April 20	Gore Family
April 13	Pesez Family	April 27	Randle Family

## NOTES FROM THE UU FELLOWSHIP OF KERRVILLE

Fritz Ozuna, a member of the UU Fellowship, is having a one-man exhibit of his art at the Duncan-McAshan Visual Arts Center and Gallery in Ingram beginning on Friday, March 28 and continuing through May 8. Art Pieces include Neon Fine Art Sculptures, Embellished Giclees, Photographic Prints, Jewelry, and Iron Sculptures. You are invited to the opening reception on March 28th from 5pm to 7pm.

## FILM SERIES

Starting April 14th for six successive Monday nights in the Annex at 7.00pm The P.B.S video The African Americans, written, narrated and produced by Henry Louis-Gates will be shown and we will have a discussion about the segment afterwards



If you have previously taken the **BYOT** course **Book 1** and would like to take the course covering **Book 2** and **3** please get in touch with Marie Brown and we will make plans. See her in church or call 895 5138 .

**UUCHC**

**960 BARNETT**

**KERRVILLE, TX. 78028**